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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the patent application of:)
Jeffrey P. Watry et al.)
Title: Starting Block With Pedal Markings) Art Unit 3764
Serial No. 10/764,255) Examiner: Jerome W. Donnelly
Filed January 23, 2004)

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated August 26, 2005, the Applicants respectfully request reconsideration.

REMARKS REGARDING THE SECTION 103 REJECTION

1. Background

Claims 1, 2, 4, and 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Newton, Jr., U.S. Patent No. 4,089,519, in view of Outlaw, U.S. Patent No. 6,422,872. The Applicants traverse the rejection for two reasons. First, the Applicants submit that the combination of references is improper because nothing in the references teaches or suggests the combination. Second, the Applicants submit that Outlaw is not analogous art.

A very brief review of the Applicants' starting block may be helpful. Most starting blocks contain a pair of foot pedals attached to a rail. The foot pedals are adjustable along the length of the rail so a runner can set them at the desired position behind the starting line. However, the foot pedals of prior art starting blocks are relatively narrow and do not allow the runner to place the feet at varying widths.